

## IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Sandy City is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by constituents that are naturally occurring or manmade. Those constituents can be microbes, organic or inorganic chemicals, or radioactive materials. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least minute amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at **1-800-426-4791**.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (**800-426-4791**).

Several sources supply our drinking water in Sandy and they include: treated surface water from Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy, which is taken from Little Cottonwood Creek and from Deer Creek Reservoir; the 21

City wells that pump groundwater during the peak season, the hot and drier months; and underground aquifers located several hundred feet below the earth's surface. For more information, call Dave Fritz at **(801) 352-4400**.

## **CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION**

### ***WHAT IS A CROSS-CONNECTION?***

A cross-connection is an actual or potential physical connection to the drinking water system through piping (plumbing) that has the possibility of allowing pollutants or contaminants to backflow into the public drinking water system.

### ***WHAT IS BACKFLOW?***

Backflow is the reversed flow of non-potable water or other substances back into the home-owner's or the public drinking water system. A backflow incident could carry pollutants or contaminants into our drinking water supplies making them unsafe for consumption.

### ***CAN I PROTECT MY HOME OR BUSINESS FROM THE DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH CROSS-CONNECTIONS AND BACKFLOW?***

Yes! The most common cross connections and methods to protect from them are described below:

#### **THREADED HOSE CONNECTIONS**

Many backflow incidents are created with the misuse of the common garden hose. Modern plumbing codes require that all threaded potable water outlets and hose bibs be protected by a non-removable hose bib vacuum breaker or an atmospheric vacuum breaker. These items can be found at your local plumbing or home improvement stores.

#### **LANDSCAPE SPRINKLING SYSTEMS**

Sandy City's adopted plumbing code requires that all landscape sprinkling systems connected to the public drinking water system be equipped with an approved backflow prevention device or assembly. These items can be found at your local plumbing or home improvement stores.



[www.sandy.utah.gov/backflowprevention](http://www.sandy.utah.gov/backflowprevention)  
or call (801) 568-7280 for more information



# **Sandy City Public Utilities**

## **2011 Water Quality Report**



*Additional copies of this report available in the  
Public Utilities Department at City Hall*

**DEFINITIONS FOR TABLE  
OF CONTAMINANTS:**

**ND** – Non-detects-Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**PPM** – Parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two (2) years, or a single penny in \$10,000.

**PPB** – Parts per billion or Micrograms per liter (ug/L) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**PPT** – Parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (nanograms/l) – one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.

**pCi/L** – picocuries per liter – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

**NTU** – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit – Nephelometric Turbidity Unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just notice-able to the average person.

**AL** – Action Level – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**TT** – Treatment Technique – A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**MCL** – Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**MCLG** – Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is not known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

**NE** – Not established.

**UR** – Unregulated.

**CU** - Color Unit

**TON** - Threshold Odor Unit

**Range** – Range of measurements based on testing of Sandy City sources.

PRIMARY INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS	units	MCL	MCLG	RANGE	MOST LIKELY SOURCE
ANTIMONY	mg/L	0.006	0.006	<.001	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
ARSENIC	mg/L	0.01	0.01	<.0005-.00114	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
BARIUM	mg/L	2	2	0.124	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
CHROMIUM	mg/L	0.1	0.1	.00287	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
CYANIDE	mg/L	0.2	0.2	<0.01	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
FLUORIDE	mg/L	4	4	0.603-0.825	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits and additional fluoride to meet Salt Lake Valley Health Regulations
MERCURY	mg/L	0.002	0.002	< 0.0002	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
THALLIUM	mg/L	0.002	0.0005	<.0005-<.001	Leaching from ore processing sites and discharges from electronics, glass and drug factories.
NITRATE	mg/L	10	10	0.236-2.8	Runoff from fertilizer, leaching from Septic tanks, sewage and naturally eroding deposits
NITRITE	mg/L	1	1	<0.03	Runoff from fertilizer, leaching from Septic tanks, sewage and naturally eroding deposits
TOTAL NITRATE & NITRITE	mg/L	10	10	<0.03-2.83	Runoff from fertilizer, leaching from Septic tanks, sewage and naturally eroding deposits
SELENIUM	mg/l	0.05	0.05	.0009- .00199	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
SODIUM	mg/L	NE	NE	15.7-54.6	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits, road de-icing
SULFATE	mg/L	1000	NE	23.0-41.9	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS	mg/L	2000	NE	154-317	Soil runoff
TURBIDITY	NTU	0.3-5.0	TT	0.019-0.134	Soil runoff, MCL if 0.5 for surface water and 5.0 for groundwater
<b>LEAD &amp; COPPER (Tested at customer tap)</b>					
COPPER	mg/L	AL=1.3	1.3	<.001-.002	Corrosion of household plumbing system,
LEAD	mg/L	AL=0.015	0	<.0005	Corrosion of household plumbing system,
<b>SECONDARY INORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>					
CHLORIDE	mg/L	250	NE	25.9-66.7	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits, road de-icing
pH	units	6.5-8.5	NE	7.21-7.70	Naturally occurring
<b>MICROBIOLOGICAL</b>					
Total Coliform, colonies/100 mL	NA	>5%	0	0.65%	MCL for monthly compliance. All repeat samples were negative; no violations were issued. Human and animal fecal waste, naturally occurring in environment
<b>RADIOLOGICAL</b>					
ALPHA EMITTERS ( adjusted gross alpha )	pCi/L	15 pCi/L	15 pCi/L	1.997 pCi/L	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
BETA/PHOTON EMITTERS	pCi/L	50	NE	9.8-9.8	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
					Note: The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem (millirems) per year. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles
COMBINED RADIUM 226 & 228	pCi/L	5	NE	0.1-1.2	Erosion of naturally occurring deposits
<b>PESTICIDE/ PBB/SOC CONTAMINANTS</b>					
Di(2-ETHYLHEXYL)ADIPATE	ug/L	400	400	ND	
<b>VOLATILE ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS</b>					
TETRACHLOROETHYLENE	mg/L	0.005	0	0.001	Improper disposal of dry cleaning and other solvents
<b>REGULATED ORGANICS</b>					
BROMODICHLOROMETHANE	ppb	NE	NE	3.9	By-product of drinking water chlorination
CHLORODIBROMOMETHANE	ppb	NE	NE	1.7	By- product of drinking water chlorination
CHLOROFORM	ppb	NE	NE	7.1	By-product of drinking water chlorination
<b>DISINFECTION-BY-PRODUCTS</b>					
TTHM'S[TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES]	ug/L	80	NE	5.5-22.9	By-product of drinking water chlorination
CHLORATE	ug/L	NE	NE	43-115	Treatment disinfection
CHLORITE	ug/L	NE	NE	39-283	Treatment disinfection
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA5)	ug/L	NE	NE	1.9-29.2	Treatment disinfection
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAA6)	ug/L	NE	NE	1.9-31.0	Treatment disinfection
<b>ORGANIC MATERIAL</b>					
TOC	mg/L	UR	NE	1.18-2.04	Naturally occurring
UV-254	1/cm	UR	NE	0.014-0.027	Naturally occurring
EPA requires monitoring of over 80 drinking water contaminants. Those contaminants listed in the table above are the only contaminants detected in your drinking water.					